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Letter dated 2 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the measures taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan to combat drug trafficking and stabilize the drug situation in the region (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109.

(*Signed*) Muzaffarbek **Madrakhimov**
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Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Measures taken by Uzbekistan to combat drug trafficking and stabilize the drug situation in the region

On June 26 the world community marks a day of global significance: the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to combating drug trafficking and stabilizing the drug situation in the region. In 2013, government efforts were focused on the ongoing implementation of a comprehensive set of activities aimed at detecting and preventing drug trafficking, preventing the spread of drug addiction, and promoting inter-agency coordination and international cooperation in this sphere.

I. Drug-related crime

The main factor contributing to the negative trend in the drug situation in Uzbekistan continues to be drug production in Afghanistan and the flow of Afghan heroin and opium via the "northern route" through Uzbekistan.

Uzbek law enforcement agencies are taking a series of targeted measures to identify drug trafficking channels, and to prevent and suppress drug trafficking. Comprehensive operations are being conducted using the forces and assets of the relevant organizations and agencies, together with representatives of local administrations and civil society.

In 2013, law enforcement agencies identified 7,680 cases of crime related to drug trafficking (in 2012, a total of 8,155 cases were identified), including 3,722 cases of drug sales (4,217 cases in 2012), 623 cases of smuggling (676 cases in 2012), 1,491 cases of illicit cultivation of narcotic plants (1,479 cases in 2012) and 1,794 cases of other drug-related crimes (1,783 cases in 2012).

A total of 2,326 kg of narcotic substances were seized (3,043.4 kg in 2012), including 121.6 kg of heroin (261.5 kg in 2012), 851.3 kg of opium (770 kg in 2012), 873.5 kg of marijuana (1,451.2 kg in 2012), 143.3 kg of hashish (230.7 kg in 2012) and 336.3 kg of koknar (330 kg in 2012).

Foreign nationals continue to engage in drug smuggling. In 2013, a total of 111 foreign nationals (136 in 2012) were detained in Uzbekistan for crimes related to drug trafficking. A total of 133.3 kg of narcotic substances (109.5 kg in 2012), over 1,300 tablets of psychotropic substances (1,900 tablets in 2012) and 138 g of precursors (120 litres in 2012) were found and seized.

In 2013 the Uzbek courts considered 3,661 criminal cases (3,578 cases in 2012) related to drug trafficking. Appropriate penalties were imposed on 4,866 individuals (4,953 in 2012).

II. Combating drug trafficking

In order to identify and stop the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, prevent crimes related to drug trafficking and block channels through which drugs enter

Uzbekistan from neighbouring countries, law enforcement agencies, drawing on the forces and resources of other relevant bodies and civil society organizations, carried out in two stages a comprehensive large-scale operation known as Black Poppy 2013. Over 10,000 internal affairs officers and around 7,000 representatives of civil society organizations and local administrations were involved in the operation.

Action was taken by 407 mobile centres and 341 protective forces to suppress smuggling and the transport of drugs in border areas and mountainous regions and along "back-door" routes.

As a result of preventive operations and police investigations, 1,223 cases of illegal cultivation of narcotic plants (1,211 cases in 2012) were identified. Crops covering a total surface area of 1 ha (1.2 ha in 2012) were destroyed, comprising 610 plots on which black poppy was grown (500 plots in 2012) covering an area of 0.7 ha (0.5 ha in 2012) and 613 plots containing cannabis (711 plots in 2012) covering an area of 0.4 ha (0.7 ha in 2012).

During Operation Black Poppy 2013, a total of 3,101 cases of drug crimes (3,093 cases in 2012) were identified and 785 kg of narcotic substances (1,279 kg in 2012) were seized, including 14.1 kg of heroin (56 kg in 2012), 9.2 kg of opium (7 kg in 2012), 7.3 kg of hashish (27 kg in 2012), 472.4 kg of marijuana (871 kg in 2012) and 282.2 kg of koknar (318 kg in 2012).

III. Drug abuse: extent, patterns and trends

Analysis of the drug situation in Uzbekistan in 2013 shows continued improvement in the key epidemiological indicators. The number of drug addicts registered with clinics decreased significantly from 2012. The national average rate of primary morbidity from drug addiction continues to decline. The number of injection drug users decreased in absolute terms and as a percentage of all registered patients. Heroin injection is also on the decline.

IV. Prevention of drug addiction

A range of ministries, agencies and civil society organizations engaged in efforts to stem the spread of drug addiction by carrying out preventive activities among various population groups.

Addiction treatment centres conducted 2,436 seminars (1,919 in 2012), 8,598 lectures (8,387 in 2012) and 635 media outreach events (599 in 2012) for newspapers, radio and television. Doctors provided 2,434 consultations to helpline callers.

The Ministry of Health has approved new programmes, developed by the addiction treatment faculty of the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education, in which training seminars on the prevention of drug dependence and early detection of drug abuse are provided to teachers and *makhallya* (community) activists.

Specialized doctors carried out training seminars on the early detection of drug dependence, including 91 seminars for teachers, 31 seminars for doctors in rural clinics and 48 seminars for *makhallya* activists.

In national educational institutions, qualified doctors were brought in to provide instruction during 16-hour optional courses on the subject of a healthy lifestyle.

With assistance from the Centre for the National Idea and Ideology, a research and practice centre, more than 1,000 teachers attended a 12-hour training programme and then organized round tables and debates among their students.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with justice experts, carried out a broad outreach effort in schools to teach students about a healthy lifestyle, inform them about the law and reinforce law-abiding behaviour. The outreach campaign included 1,137 thematic lectures, 1,460 round tables and 528 seminars.

As part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project GLO-K01 (Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes), education experts (teachers and psychologists) at four pilot schools in Tashkent provided instruction to 90 families in the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programme. The instruction was interactive and was aimed at helping children develop healthy habits and improve their scholastic performance and communication skills and helping parents take responsibility for the family, in order to prevent future criminality, drug abuse and other social problems.

The Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education conducted some 14,600 preventive activities (such as seminars, meetings and competitions) at which thematic films were shown. It was actively involved in organizing Prevention of Youth Drug Addiction month, during which, in cooperation with other relevant entities, it held more than 2,500 meetings attended by 180,000 university students and 730,000 secondary school students.

Local branches of the *Makhallya* Fund conducted more than 30,000 preventive activities in *makhallya* councils on themes such as "We are in favour of a healthy lifestyle", "Drug addiction and its negative consequences" and "Life without drugs", reaching a total audience of over 1.6 million.

Classes for children from low-income and single-parent families were organized at 3,000 sports clubs and 926 other clubs.

With the assistance of civic clubs and associations, 660 drug-dependent individuals found paid community employment and 514 were sent for retraining.

V. Capacity-building for addiction treatment services

Work continued on improving the organization and resourcing of addiction treatment services. After the completion of construction and repair work, the medical and social rehabilitation department and the outpatient department of the Namangan provincial addiction treatment clinic as well as the outpatient department of the Samarkand provincial addiction treatment clinic were put back into operation as fully equipped facilities. Following capital repairs, a specialized prevention and treatment institution for compulsory treatment of drug-addicted patients was opened in Surkhan-Darya province. The inpatient department of the Kokand municipal addiction treatment clinic began operating. Reconstruction and repairs are under way on the building that will house the Andijan provincial addiction treatment clinic.

The Samarkand, Tashkent and Khorezm provincial addiction treatment clinics now have gymnasiums equipped with training and sports gear acquired with assistance from UNODC project AD/GLO/J71 (Treatnet II — Treating drug dependence and its health consequences).

In order to build the human resources and methodological capacity of the addiction treatment service of the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education, 103 doctors received training: 41 received primary specialization training, 27 took a course on psychotherapy and drug addiction, 22 took a course on treatment and rehabilitation of drug-addicted patients, and 13 took a course on current issues in addiction treatment. Beginning in 2013, courses for specialization in medical psychology have been offered using an approved curriculum.

Under the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) project on cooperation in the organization of drug control and combating drug trafficking and distribution, a training seminar was held for specialists in regional addiction treatment offices. The participants discussed the tasks of regional addiction treatment experts in implementing a holistic addiction treatment model and issues related to individual treatment plans and social work with patients and their family members.

Under the AD/GLO/J71 project, with the participation of faculty from the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education, seminars were conducted in 12 regions to provide drug addiction experts specialists with training in a holistic addiction treatment model.

Under the "TREAT" component of the European Community's Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP 5), a seminar was held in Fergana to instruct doctors in the latest methods of treating drug dependence with a focus on using psychotherapeutic techniques with drug-addicted patients. The seminar materials on cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy were published in the Uzbek language in the form of recommendations and distributed to addiction treatment clinics nationwide.

VI. International cooperation

Uzbekistan continued its efforts to meet its international obligations in drug control, combating drug trafficking and preventing the spread of drug addiction.

A delegation from the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting of the heads of agencies of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) responsible for combating illicit drug trafficking, as well as the meeting of experts held to draft the relevant documents, both of which were held in Bishkek from 27 to 30 April.

In terms of broadening cooperation with partners, meetings and talks were held with representatives of international organizations and the relevant agencies of foreign States. Current proposals and priorities for international action were discussed at a meeting of experts of the Paris Pact initiative (The Hague, 11-13 February); the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (Vienna, 11-15 March); a meeting of the National Steering Committee of the CADAP 5 Programme (Tashkent, 13 March); a conference on the theme of preventing the online illicit drug trade (Vienna, 25-26 July); the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in

the Near and Middle East (Vienna, 25-28 November); and a meeting of experts of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and a meeting of the Council of National Coordinators of that organization (Almaty, 9-10 December).

Under the 2001 intergovernmental agreement between Uzbekistan and the United States, technical capacity-building activities were conducted with Uzbek law enforcement agencies engaged in combating smuggling and organized crime.

The United States Government has contributed over $10 million to support the forensic units of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and the acquisition of special-purpose investigative, scanning and tactical equipment.

In order to implement exchange of information obligations under international treaties, and with financial assistance from the Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, the 2012 Information Bulletin on the Drug Situation in Central Asia was published and distributed to the relevant ministries and agencies and to the diplomatic corps in Tashkent.

VII. Technical capacity-building

In order to enhance the logistical and human resources capacities of Uzbek ministries and agencies responsible for drug control and countering drug trafficking and drug addiction, and in order to develop regional cooperation in these matters, the implementation of the following international projects was coordinated:

- "Precursor control in Central Asia" — AD/RER/00/E29
- "Project on counter-narcotics training of Central Asian and Afghan law enforcement personnel" — XAC/I97
- "Computer-based drug law enforcement training in the member countries of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sub-Regional Cooperation in Drug Control" — AD/RER/F60
- "Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence, information and data collection, analysis and exchange" — AD/RER/F23
- "Establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)" — AD/RER/H22
- "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossing points and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices" — XAC/K22
- "Treatnet II — Treating drug dependence and its health consequences" — AD/GLO/J71
- CADAP 5 Programme — European Union
- "Cooperation in organizing drug control and combating the illicit trafficking and distribution of drugs" — OSCE.

Training exercises and courses were provided for law enforcement personnel and staff of the relevant ministries and agencies.

In particular, as part of the Russia-NATO project AD/XAC/I97, 93 officers from the National Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Customs Committee participated in 13 training courses held at the Russian Advanced Training Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Domodedovo, the North-Western Institute of Advanced Training of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation in Saint Petersburg, the Siberian Law Institute of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Under project XAC/K22, "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossing points and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices", two training courses on the use of the IBM i2 software were held and one course was held to provide training in Border Liaison Office activities and procedures to 12 personnel from the relevant national bodies assigned to the offices in Uzbekistan.

Under projects implemented as part of the CADAP 5 Programme, five training seminars were held in the period under review, attended by more than 53 staff members of relevant ministries and agencies.

Under the "Treatnet II — Treating drug dependence and its health consequences" project (AD/GLO/J71), six regional training seminars were held in 2013 for 180 participants, including addiction treatment doctors, social workers from addiction treatment institutions, and senior experts from provincial employment centres of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

In accordance with the implementation plan for the OSCE project on cooperation in combating the illicit trafficking and distribution of drugs, training seminars were conducted in February, April, May and December 2013 for the secretaries of municipal and regional drug control committees of *hokimiyat* (executive bodies) in the provinces of Andijan, Namangan, Fergana, Syr-Darya and Jizzakh and the city of Tashkent, and for addiction treatment experts from national institutions; the seminars were attended by total of 103 participants.

In addition, short courses on combating drug trafficking held in the United Kingdom and Austria were attended by 11 officers from relevant Uzbek agencies.

In accordance with the arrangements in place under existing agreements, information on the drug situation was exchanged with the coordinating structures of Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation and UNODC.